

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 1, lines 10-23, so that it reads as follows:

When audio data are thinned out before being reproduced, the boundary between data immediately preceding the thinned data and data immediately following the thinned data may be made discontinuous, ~~to cause~~ causing abrupt variations in sound volume and hence noise. Such noise needs to be reduced, so a technique has been proposed to reduce the noise. In the technique, the amplitude or sound volume of a plurality of continuous data that precede the thinned data is gradually reduced to zero on the boundary, while the sound volume of a plurality of data that follow the thinned data is gradually increased from zero. Such a conventional technique makes it possible to reduce the noise resulting from abrupt variations in the amplitude on the boundary of data caused by thinning out the data therebetween.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 3, lines 9-26, so that it reads as follows:

Fig. 1 shows a configuration of a reproducing apparatus according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The reproducing apparatus 1 includes a thinning-out unit 2, a conversion unit 3 and a control unit 4. The thinning-out unit 2 is to thin out audio digital data on a data block basis as described later, the audio digital data being representative of audio signals such as voice or music output from a recording apparatus such as a magnetic tape or magnetic disk, not shown. The conversion unit 3 concatenates data immediately preceding the data thinned out by means of the thinning-out unit 2 with data immediately following the thinned data. The conversion unit 3 then converts plural data including the immediately preceding data and immediately following data from

digital to analog to output the converted analog data to reproducing equipment, not shown, composed of an amplifier, a speaker, and so on. The control unit 4 controls the operation of the thinning-out unit 2 and the conversion unit 3.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 4, lines 1-12, so that it reads as follows:

Fig. 2 shows audio digital data output from the recording apparatus and input to the reproducing apparatus 1. As shown, the audio digital data include a sequence of data blocks a to e each of which consists of 64 units of data D1 to D64 (called simply “data” hereafter). As an example, Fig. 2 shows that the data block a consists of 64 data D1 to D64, and that audio reproduction is performed as indicated by an envelop specified by the data D1 to D64. The audio digital data including such plural data blocks are then thinned out on a data block basis so that the digital data after thinned out will be reproduced at a frequency lower than the frequency at which the digital data before thinned out is reproduced.

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 4, lines 18-24, so that it reads as follows:

Fig. 3 shows data blocks after being thinned out by means of the thinning-out unit 2. The thinning-out unit 2 performs thinning-out of data every other block, that is, it removes the data blocks b and d from the data blocks a to e to create a string or sequence of data blocks a, c and e as shown in Fig. 3. The string of data blocks thus created is forwarded to the conversion unit 3.